THE

RAGGED SCHOOL UNION QUARTERLY RECORD.

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED

"THE RAGGED SCHOOL UNION MAGAZINE."

Waste not thy being! back to Him
Who freely gave it, freely give;
Else is that being but a dream,
'Tis but to *be*, and not to *live*.

Fill up each hour with what will last,
Buy up the moments as they go;
The life above, when this is past,
Is the ripe fruit of life below.

Sow love, and taste its fruitage pure;
Sow peace, and reap its harvest bright;
Sow sunbeams on the rock and moor,
And find a harvest home of light.

DR. BOWRING.

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VOLUME VII. NEW SERIES.

LONDON:
RAGGED SCHOOL UNION, 12 AND 13, EXETER HALL;
KENT & CO., PATERNOSTER ROW;
AND ALL BOOKSELLERS

TO OUR READERS.

THIRTY-EIGHT years have passed since the establishment of the Ragged School Union, and with this year is completed the Society's thirty-fourth volume, which records the growth of a system of missionary enterprise among the waifs and strays of Society.

The present volume, like its predecessors, supplies particulars relating to many departments of self-denying labour, and gives samples of fruit which are an earnest of the harvest that is to come.

That Ragged Schools are a necessity is generally conceded. Board Schools are mainly responsible for secular teaching. Ragged Schools cover the entire nature, aiming chiefly at the development of spiritual relations, as the appended report shows.

During the year there have been 36,734 children under instruction, which is an increase of 2,501 over the previous year, and 3,157 voluntary teachers, which is an increase of 141. Besides this the number of institutions or centres of influence has increased by eight.

As further signs of advance we may mention that the fortnight's outing to poor and weakly children, commenced last year at the instance of a kind lady, has this year been continued and extended to a larger number, and Children's Libraries and sales of pure literature have largely increased.

The preservation of the life of our noble President is a cause for thankfulness to the Giver of all good, and we pray that his valuable life may be prolonged. The obituary of this Society is rich in memorials of the just. Year by year those who have borne the burden and heat of the day enter into rest. During the present year a sheaf of blessed souls has been gathered into the celestial garner. Chief among these was William Locke, Esq., one of the founders of the Ragged School Union, and Mrs. Charlesworth, the wife of the saintly rector late of Limehouse. There were also Mr. Ayshford, Mr. Tivendale, Mr. Jones, Miss Burrows, Miss Pettifer, Miss Paroissien, Miss Seeley, and Mrs. Fagg. These, it may be, were little known beyond their own spheres of labour. All were faithful servants of Christ, and their radiant memories brighten many a home.

The Society's funds, we regret to state, are *not in a satisfactory condition.*

Gigantic operations force themselves into notice, but by their continuous and loud appeals for help the claims of others are overborne. Small institutions are thereby endangered, and it is mainly through such an organisation as the Ragged School Union that their special needs can be met. Funds are, therefore, to it a pressing necessity, and an annual income is required, not only sufficient to cover the quarterly grants, but such as shall enable the Society to meet with liberality special appeals for removal of debt, or needed extensions of work, or increased accommodation.

Teachers have it in their power greatly to aid the Editor by forwarding letters or statements of matters of interest relating to their work. Letters from old scholars are especially valuable. Scraps of information, however rough and unshaped, will be acceptable. This appeal is made in the confident hope that it will be responded to.

R. J. C., *Editor.*

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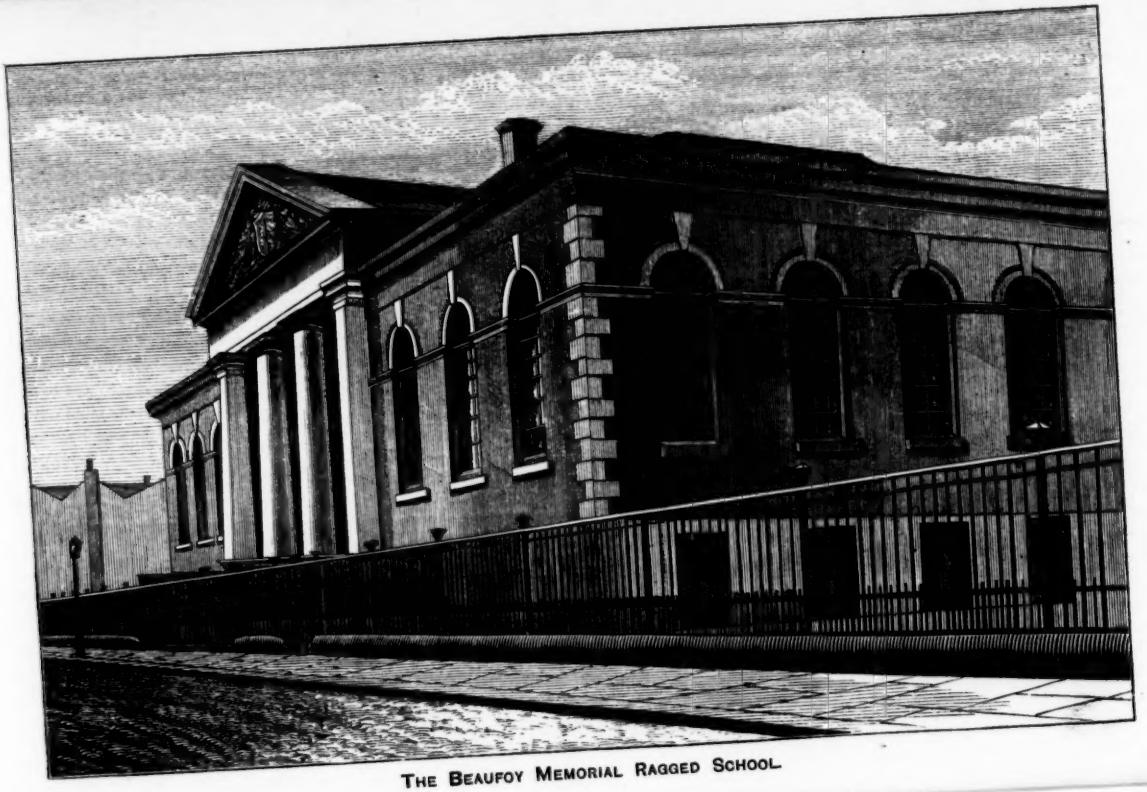

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